

REMARKS

The Applicant responds to the Restriction Requirement of March 24, 2005, as follows:

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant elects Invention I drawn to Claims 1-12, with traverse.

As to the requirement for election among identified species, Applicant elects the third species as illustrated in Figure 10. Applicant believes that Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 13, 15, and 19-24 read on such species.

The Official Action characterizes Claims 1-12 as being drawn to a parallel-to-serial conversion, and Claims 13 and 14 as drawn to a serial-to-parallel conversion. The Official Action acknowledges that both conversion types are classified in class 341. The former is further sub-divided into subclass 101, while the latter is found in subclass 100.

Underlying the Restriction Requirement is the assertion that the inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The Official Action then notes that such subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable.

With this as background, the Official Action takes the position that the parallel to serial conversion of Claims 1-12 has separate utility, namely as a parallel-to-serial conversion

that happens to be independent of a serial-to-parallel conversion.

Underlying the position taken by the Official Action is the essential mischaracterization of the subject matter of the respective claims as being a parallel-to-serial conversion, or the reverse. Applicant wishes to draw attention to the fact that each set of claims recites with particularity an encoding or decoding element. Further, the very preamble of each set of claims identifies the invention either as an encoder or decoder.

The Official Action appears to take the position that the invention is fundamentally a parallel-to-serial or serial-to-parallel converter, which happens to perform encoding or decoding. Applicant suggests that the invention is better characterized as a coding scheme, necessarily having encoding and decoding elements. One particular characteristic of the coding scheme happens to be a serial-to-parallel or parallel-to-serial conversion. As such, the encoding/decoding scheme lies at the heart of the invention as recited in each and every pending claim.

Furthermore, regardless of whether the examination were to be directed to the subject of Claims 1-12 or 13 and 14, the search must address the encoding/decoding scheme recited in each of the claims. Accordingly, the search directed to either of the two identified sets of claims must necessarily cover all or

nearly all of the subject area that must be taken into account with respect to the other set of claims.

With this, the consideration of all claims does not amount to an increased searching burden on the Examiner. Such a burden must underlie a valid requirement for election among a plurality of identified inventions.

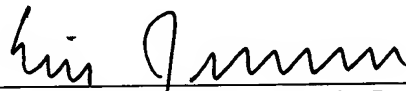
For all the reasons presented above, Applicant respectfully requests prompt consideration of all claims pending the application as to their merits.

If the Examiner has any questions or requires further clarification of any of the above points, the Examiner may contact the undersigned attorney so that this application may continue to be expeditiously advanced.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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EJ/msd